

Appl No. 10/777,204
Amdt. Dated December 13, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 26, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-3 are cancelled. Claims 4, 5, 8 and 14 have been amended. Claim 4 is amended to state that the fibers are water impermeable as supported by, for example, paragraph 9. Claim 5 is amended to state that the fibers have non-porous walls as supported by, for example, paragraph 24. Claims 8 and 14 are amended to make them independent by incorporating the matter of claim 4 as currently amended and any intervening claims, but without the restriction to fibers made of polymethyl pentene. The Applicants submit that no new matter is added by these amendments. Claims 1 to 19 are now pending.

Election/Restriction

The Applicants elect Group III, claims 4-19. Claims 1-3 are cancelled.

Claim Rejections

Claims 4-7 and 11-13 were rejected as being obvious over US Publication 2004-0060442 (Publication '442) in view of References C and G. Publication '442 describes a liquid filtration device using porous membranes (see for example paragraphs 1, 3, 42, 99 and 103).

All of claims 4-7 and 11-13 recite membranes that are water impermeable or, for claim 5, non-porous. There is no teaching in publication '442 towards water impermeable membranes since that would be contrary to the basic purpose of the device as a liquid filter. There is also no teaching in References C and G towards a module structure as described in Publication '442. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that there is no prima facie case of obviousness created by the cited references.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-10 and 14-19 were indicated to be allowable if made independent. This has been done but for the omission of the reference to polymethyl pentene fibers in claim 4.

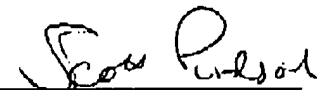
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The Applicants submit that the elements of claims 8-10 and 14-19 are inventive without restriction to fibers of polymethyl pentene.

For the reasons above, the Applicants submit that the claims are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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